

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-32 (cancelled).

33. (currently amended): A device for collecting and storing a biological sample for subsequent analysis, comprising a tamper-evident storage ~~[[means]]~~ structure configured for storing said biological sample, said storage ~~[[means]]~~ structure being suitable for at least partial digestion together with said biological sample for subsequent analysis.
34. (currently amended): The device of claim 33, wherein said storage ~~[[means]]~~ structure comprises sheets of material suitable for digestion together with said biological sample, between which said biological sample is stored.
35. (currently amended): The device of claim 34, wherein said sheets are adapted to be ~~substantially irreversibly~~ adhered together.
36. (currently amended): The device of claim ~~[[33]]~~ 43, wherein print is on the reverse of said base sheet.

Claim 37. (cancelled).

38. (currently amended): The device of claim ~~[[33]]~~ 43, wherein the base sheet is paper.
39. (previously presented): The device of claim 38, wherein the cover sheet is coated with a permanent adhesive across its entire surface, and the portion of the cover sheet to which the backing sheet is not secured constitutes the hinged connection between the cover sheet and the base sheet.

40. (currently amended): The device of claim ~~[[33]]~~ 43, wherein the cover sheet is a clear polypropylene film.

41. (currently amended): The device of claim ~~[[33]]~~ 43, wherein the backing sheet is a release paper.

42. (currently amended): The device of claim ~~[[42]]~~ 43, wherein a bar code is printed on the reverse of said base sheet.

43. (currently amended): The device of claim 33, wherein said storage ~~[[means]]~~ structure comprises:

a base sheet arranged so that the biological sample may be positioned thereon;

a cover sheet hingedly secured to said base sheet, said cover sheet being adapted for substantially irreversible adhesive securement to said base sheet over at least a substantial portion of their facing surfaces; and

a backing sheet releasably secured to the surface of said cover sheet facing said base sheet.

44. (currently amended): The device of claim 33, wherein ~~a hole punch takes a portion of said sample for analysis together with that part of the storage means in which it is encased~~ said storage structure is configured to allow a hole punch to remove a portion of said biological sample.

45. (currently amended): The device of claim 33, wherein ~~said sample is digested in an alkali extraction~~ storage structure is suitable for digestion together with said biological sample in a solution.

46. (currently amended): The device of claim 33, wherein said biological sample is ~~subjected to amplification by PCR and then DNA sequencing~~ animal or plant material.

47. (currently amended): The device of claim 43, wherein the cover sheet ~~is coated with~~ comprises a permanent adhesive ~~aeross~~ on its ~~entire~~ surface, and the portion of the cover sheet to which the backing sheet is not secured constitutes the hinged connection between the cover sheet and the base sheet.
48. (new): The device of claim 45, wherein the solution is an alkali or phenol/chloroform solution.
49. (new): The device of claim 48, wherein the solution is an alkali solution comprising sodium hydroxide.
50. (new): The device of claim 46, wherein said biological sample is animal material.
51. (new): The device of claim 50, wherein the animal material is a bodily fluid.
52. (new): The device of claim 46, wherein said biological sample is plant material.
53. (new): The device of claim 33, wherein said storage structure comprises at least one sheet of material suitable for digestion together with said biological sample, wherein the at least one sheet of material comprises a polymeric film.
54. (new): The device of claim 53, wherein said polymeric film is a clear polypropylene film.
55. (new): A device for collecting and storing a biological sample for subsequent analysis comprising a tamper-evident storage structure configured for storing said biological sample, said storage structure being suitable for at least partial digestion together with said biological sample for subsequent analysis, wherein said storage structure comprises:
- (a) a base sheet arranged so that the biological sample may be positioned thereon;

- (b) a cover sheet configured to be secured to said base sheet, wherein said cover sheet comprises a polymeric film; and
- (c) a backing sheet releasably secured to the surface of said cover sheet facing said base sheet.

- 56. (new): The device of claim 55, wherein said cover sheet is adapted for adhesive securement to said base sheet over at least a portion of their facing surfaces.
- 57. (new): The device of claim 55, wherein said polymeric film is a clear polypropylene film.
- 58. (new): The device of claim 55, wherein the cover sheet is hingedly secured to the base sheet.